

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
August 19, 2005
Wyoming State Fair, Douglas

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Gene Hardy
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
Jim Mickelson
David Graham
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Members Absent: Leif Udem
David Largent - came in after lunch
Emily Horton
Ben Way, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Jones at 8:15 a.m. on August 19, 2005.

Approval of Minutes

Hardy made a motion to approve the June 7, June 15, and July 6 minutes. Seconded by Mickelson. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Intern Presentations

Corri Rekow with Consumer Health Services said this is her second year as an intern with CHS and will be graduating in May from UW. She said her experience working on their meat program has been very rewarding.

Kari deCastro and Kristy Wedemeyer with State Fair both worked on press releases, media, shows and events for State Fair and enjoyed their summer in Douglas.

Revised State Funding Allocations

Bobbie Frank reviewed the criteria approved by WACD Board, as well as the district personnel. After Bobbie explained the additional guidelines would make the districts more accountable by adding the one page summary and the educational components. The only change made to the draft was increasing the balance of funding from \$350,000 to \$354,000, which was used for competitive grants. **Hardy made a motion to approve the funding criteria as presented. Seconded by Graham. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Orientation

Ann Wittmann with the Wyoming Beef Council gave the members some background of the Beef Checkoff Program and their organization. She has agreed to have a demonstration of the cuts of beef for the board at their January or February meeting.

ADMB/Legislation Update

Hank Uhden talked a little about each of the projects being funded through the ADMB. He also spoke on the legislation being proposed to provide additional funding the local Predatory Animal Boards. He did attend all 23 county PAB meetings and they will meet on 9/2 in the cafeteria at State Fair at 2 p.m. to refine the proposed legislation which will then go on to the Legislative Service Office for final preparation. Bryce Reece highlighted the proposed legislation and said he would be sending it to the PABs next week. Rod Krischke explained his role with wildlife and predators and that USDA/APHIS does cost-share with the local PABs. Bryce indicated he is sending each PAB a cd with information on some key people (i.e. County Commissioners, etc.) So they can prepare letters to each of them regarding the proposed legislation. He will also get the information to each Board Member.

Orientation - cont.

Mary Randolph with the Wyoming Rural Development Council and Main Street Program handed out some information on their programs, explaining each of them.

Sarka White with Wyoming Ag in the Classroom talked about the programs they administer. Helen Jones asked for her to put together a list of talking points and send them to members so they can talk to community members showing support for the program.

Intern Presentations - cont.

Emily Scott worked for the Technical Services Division this summer. She helped with preparing and researching for the ADMB legislation and created an SOP for each position in the division. She also worked on compiling information on recommendations made by staff on rules and regulations.

Laura Pelto is a returning intern to the Weed and Pest section of the Technical Services Division. She spent most of the summer doing DART training around the state.

Elizabeth Ross worked in the Natural Resource Section and said she gained a new perspective of grazing and natural resources. She worked on the mediation program, NEPA comments and forest revision plans.

Wildlife Services

Rod Krischke gave the board a power point presentation regarding the work they do with PABs, ADMB, etc. outlining their role with each organization. He also gave a brief history of the wolves and their current pack numbers.

Board Updates

Spencer said Nevada has lost their lab and would like to send samples to Wyoming. Nevada's prices are higher than Wyoming which would result in an increase in revenue. Because our pricing is now a rule, any variances would need to go through the rule making process. Spencer will follow-up with the Attorney General's office and John.

Jim Mickelson said the Governor gave the funding necessary to re-hire the brand inspectors that were laid off. Several people bought the non-renewed brands which were sold, increasing revenues some, but there is a possibility Wyoming may be dealing with brand brokers in the future.

Lee Otto attended a meeting regarding Springer and Bump Sullivan wetland projects. He is following the rule process on feeding ruminants to ruminants and said it was published July 7, but it is not really in effect. Gene asked Lee to give the information to Muff for distribution to the rest of the board. The board will take up the issue at a later conference call. John will discuss it at NASDA in September.

Meghan Lally said the wild horses are being gathered and all seems to be going pretty well. There is a black bear problem on the Medicine Bow and they can't get Game and Fish to authorize Wildlife Services to kill the bear.

David Largent said from an exhibitor standpoint, State Fair is going well. He commended Barney and staff on the great job they have done with the tents in light of losing the building. He also heard at his county fair they would like to see a rule to be enforced at the county level on short tail docking to discourage bad practices. He would also like to change the August Board meeting from Friday to Monday.

David Graham said Salt Cedar is becoming a real problem in his area. Weed and Pest say it's going to be difficult to control because it isn't on the list. He asked how the Weed and Pest Districts receive additional funding for to control weeds on state lands. He said the meeting with the Predator Board went well.

Because the tail docking issue seems to become worse every year, the members felt their policy on the issue should be restated in a letter. **Mickelson made a motion to write a letter to extension agents letting them know the Board of Agriculture's Policy on Tail Docking. Graham amended the motion to include Fair Boards. Mickelson agreed to amend the motion. Seconded by Hardy. All voted in favor.**

Helen asked who should write the letter. Jim Schwartz said the department would prepare a letter for their approval.

Bryce Reece said Wyoming Wool Growers and the Lamb Co-op are hoping to give \$5,000 to State Fair for the carcass lamb portion to strengthen the show.

David Largent wants to re-visit the dates for State Fair because of the conflicts with schools.

Issues

Jim Schwartz ~ He and Scott Zimmerman are talking about having a conference in October on biodiesel. ~ The equestrian center and stalling will probably require thirteen and one-half million dollars. ~ Age requirements by PRCA will probably require legislation to allow 18-year olds to participate. ~ There will probably be legislation in 2009 to change the sunset for the ADMB. ~ Possible cheatgrass legislation. ~ Possible merge with the Wheat Marketing Commission and Wheat Growers. More discussion at their August 25 meeting. Wyoming Livestock Board is asking for input of re-structuring the organization. Currently are not working with exotic species, pet shops, grooming, etc. Sage Grouse conference August 23 and 24 in Riverton.

Helen Jones ~ She would like to talk at the next meeting about the tree replacement project for the fairgrounds.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date